--- 25 Cigarettes - “Canadian Tobacofina”, Montreal - “30-10D” ---

The Canadian operations of “Benson and Hedges” was established by Arthur Walsh, a London (U.K.) bookkeeper who had been placed in charge of New York in 1895, and who opened the first “Benson and Hedges” store in Montreal in 1906. In the late 1920’s “Benson and Hedges” moved into the Canadian cigar market when they purchased the assets of “J. Hirsch and Sons Ltd.”, Montreal - who had been manufacturing cigars since the 1880’s.

In July 1958 “Philip Morris Incorporated” (which had merged with “Benson and Hedges”, New York, in 1954) also merged with “Benson and Hedges (Canada) Limited” [**8-10D**], and in 1961 opened a modern cigarette factory at Brampton, Ontario [**1-80-E**].

In 1962 “Benson and Hedges (Canada) Limited” purchased “Tabacofina of Canada” [**30-10D**] and acquired their cigarette factory in Montreal where Tabacofina had for some years manufactured *Belvedere* cigarettes. The company’s range of cigarettes included *Parliament; Alpine; Benson & Hedges* 100 mm - plain and menthol; *Mark* 10- plain and menthol; *Belvedere*, and *Belmont*.

--- 25 Cigarette - “Canadian Tabacofina”, Montreal – “30-10-D” - 1962-63 ---

After their acquisition by “Benson & Hedges” in 1962, “Canadian Tabacofina” ran a *weekly* number sequence, extending from 101 to 200 without a company coding. This covered two years production. Since the cancellation 119 is on a copy of **RC-416** for “over-weight” cigarettes (which dates from late 1961, until early 1962) I feel that they were running weekly codes (probably four weeks per month) - which I will begin in January 1962. The 20 cigarette pack illustrated is used to show the attribution of this cancellation format to “*Belvedere*” cigarettes.

The collection does not contain a copy cancelled with red ink

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--- 25 Cigarette - “Canadian Tabacofina”, Montreal - 30-10D - 1962-63 ---

The collection does not contain a copy cancelled with red ink

[RC-394]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1962	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1963	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

--- 25 Cigarettes - Series “C” - “Canadian Tabacofina”, Montreal - 30-10-D - 1964-65 ---

“Benson & Hedges / Canadian Tabacofina” continued their *weekly* number sequence, now using two digits (having dropped the leading “2”) and extending at least from 11 to 73, without a company coding. This coding covers about two years. I have little doubt that the sequence does not end at 73. The table should be adjusted as new items are found.

--- the cancellations read vertically down - 5 copies to date ---

[★RC-394]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1964	---	---	---	---	---	21	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1965	---	53	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	62	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	55	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	52	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

--- 25 Cigarettes - “Canadian Tobacofina”, Montreal - 10D-30 – 1968-69 ---

The following series is found on the imperforate Series “C” twenty-five cigarettes stamp and uses a heavy 5 mm. Gothic letter as a date code. They come from the period 1966 (after the code reversal to **10D-30** had occurred. I had felt that these are a complete letter sequence reading in *months* of production - which now seems unlikely.

Counting those used on the imperforate Series “C” twenty-five cigarettes stamp used by “Canadian Tabacofina”, and adding those from the parent company “Benson & Hedges”, the letters **A, C, E, H, I, K, L, O, R, T** and **W** have been collected from this sequence.

Since, in red ink, **T** occurs on the Series “C” 25 cigarettes stamp, and **E** is found on the “Wings” Series 25 cigarettes stamp, the series must date from 1968-69.

★**RC-394** - 25 cigarettes, imperf, coded **T / 10D 30** by “Canadian Tabacofina”, Montreal

★**RC-817** - 25 cigarettes, imperf, coded **E / 10D 30** by “Canadian Tabacofina”, Montreal

--- the cancellation reads vertically down - a single copy to date ---

[★RC-394]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1968	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1969	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	T	---	---	---	---

[★RC-817]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1968	---	---	---	---	E	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1969	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

--- 25 Cigarettes - “Canadian Tobacofina”, Montreal - [10D 30] - 1968-74 ---

Then follows a numbered sequence on the twenty-five cigarette “Wings” Series using a modern Roman typeface, running from **01** to **78** (the highest found to date), which judging by the packaging fragments on the stamps, mostly came from *Belvedere* boxes.

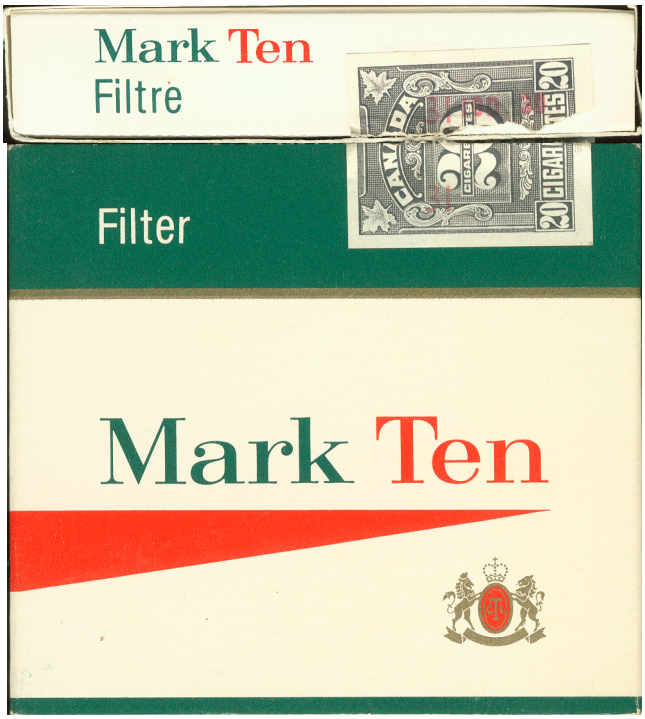
The use of the imperforate twenty-five cigarette “Wings” Series seems to have run from **01** in 1968 and ended at **81** in August 1974.

--- the cancellations read vertically down - a single copy to date ---

[★RC-817]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1968	**01**	**02**	---	**04**	**05**	**06**	---	**08**	---	**10**	---	**12**
1969	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	**24**
1970	---	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31**	---	---	---	**35**	---
1971	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1972	---	**50**	**51**	**52**	---	---	**55**	**56**	**57**	**58**	**59**	**60**
1973	**61**	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	**72**
1974	**73**	**74**	**75**	**76**	---	**78**	**79**	**80**	**81**	---	---	---

There is something amiss here. The “Wings” Series actually began general use in 1969. It seems that these codes will have to be compressed to fit into 1969-74. Do they run bi-monthly at 24 per year? They could have begun use of the “Wings” Series at a later date if they were using up the old Series “C” stamps from “Benson & Hedges”. This would work out as follows:

[★RC-817]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1971	---	---	---	---	**02**	**04**	**06**	**08**	**10**	**12**	**14**	**16**
	---	---	---	**01**	**03**	**05**	**07**	**09**	**11**	**13**	**15**	**17**
1972	**18**	**20**	**22**	**24**	**26**	**28**	**30**	**32**	**34**	**36**	**38**	**40**
	19	**21**	**23**	**25**	**27**	**29**	**31**	**33**	**35**	**37**	**39**	**41**
1973	**42**	**44**	**46**	**48**	**50**	**52**	**54**	**56**	**58**	**60**	**62**	**64**
	43	**45**	**47**	**49**	**51**	**53**	**55**	**57**	**59**	**61**	**63**	**65**
1974	**66**	**68**	**70**	**72**	**74**	**76**	**78**	**80**	---	---	---	---
	67	**69**	**71**	**73**	**75**	**77**	**79**	**81**				



★**RC-815** - 20 cigarettes, “Wings” Series, imperf, on a 3¼” x 2 ⅞” x ⅝” light cardboard slide box of **Mark Ten -** FILTER TIP cigarettes, manufactured by “Canadian Tabacofina”, Montreal.
The stamp is cancelled **31 / 10D-30 / 31** and the coupon inside expired on June 30, 1980 - in ten years?

File path is [c:\ MS - STAMPS \ RC_STAMPS \ 1935 - Series C \ 25 cigarettes \ 10D-30 - small - red],
In MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP CP 1525 Laser Jet,
January 2nd 2014,- JBH